

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in the present application. Claim 17 has been cancelled. In the Office Action mailed June 28, 2006, the Office Action rejected claims 1-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In the above amendments, claims 1, 6, 11, and 19 have been amended to recite “means for implementing a plurality of control mechanisms to reduce the load on the base station, wherein the control mechanism used to reduce the load on the base station is selected based on the type and degree of the load on the base station.” Claims 21, 23, 29, 32, 34, 37, and 39 have been amended to recite a processor configured to “reduce[e] the load on the base station using a plurality of control mechanisms based on the type and degree of the load on the base station.” Support for these amendments may be found throughout Applicants’ Specification, such as on page 14, paragraph [0048]. Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 14, 17, 21, 22, 33 and 39 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 14, 17, 21, 22, 33 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,944,449 to Gandhi et al. (hereinafter, “Gandhi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,398 to Padovani et al. (hereinafter, “Padovani”). Claim 17 has been cancelled. With respect to the remaining claims this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The M.P.E.P. states that

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

The initial burden is on the examiner to provide some suggestion of the desirability of doing what the inventor has done. To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed

invention or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references.

M.P.E.P. § 2142.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As amended, claim 1 has been amended to recite “means for implementing a plurality of control mechanisms to reduce the load on the base station, wherein the control mechanism used to reduce the load on the base station is selected based on the type and degree of the load on the base station.” As amended, claims 21 and 39 have been amended to recite a processor configured to “reduce[e] the load on the base station using a plurality of control mechanisms based on the type and degree of the load on the base station.” Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest these claim limitations. Specifically, the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39.

The Office Action asserts that Gandhi discloses “means for implementing a control mechanism to reduce the overload.” In support of this assertion, the Office Action cited various portions of Gandhi. The first cited portion of Gandhi discloses the following:

The first measurer 16 and the second measurer 18 provide a first performance indicator and a second performance indicator that represent contemporaneous or time-related measurements for the subscriber station 24 seeking access to the base station 10. The first measurer 16 and the second measurer 18 output the first performance indicator and the 60 second performance indicator to the blocking manager 20.

The blocking manager 20 references a database 22, which may store a desired relationship of the first performance indicator versus the second performance indicator (e.g., interference rise versus loading). The blocking manager 20 decides whether to grant access of the subscriber station 24 to the base station 10 or the wireless communications system 11 based on a comparison of the first performance indicator and the second performance indicator to the desired relationship. For example, the first performance indicator is compared to a blocking threshold of the desired relationship, where the second performance indicator determines the selection of an appropriate value of the blocking threshold.

Gandhi, col. 2, line 54 through col. 3, line 5. Apparently, the Office Action is asserting that the “blocking manager 20” is the same as a “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Gandhi only discloses one blocking manager 20 not “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39.

The second portion of Gandhi cited by the Office Action states the following:

In step S12 of FIG. 2, the base station 10 or another network element (e.g., base station controller 26 or telecommunications switch 30) establishes a blocking threshold based upon the measured second performance parameter. For example, a previous value of the blocking threshold may be based on a corresponding value of the second performance parameter at a particular instantaneous time or a particular time span during which the subscriber station 24 seeks access to the wireless communications system 11. The blocking threshold controls the extent to which access is granted or denied to an additional subscriber station 24 seeking access to the wireless communications system. The blocking threshold represents a control overload benchmark for determining whether to deny or grant the access of one or more subscriber stations to a base station 10 or the wireless communications system 11. The blocking threshold may be expressed in units such as decibels above the background noise floor, a relative signal strength relative to a reference signal strength, or an absolute signal strength.

In step S14, the base station 10 or another network element determines whether the first performance indicator is less than or equal to the established blocking threshold (established in step S12). If the first performance indicator is less than or equal to the established blocking threshold, the method continues with step S16. However, if the first performance indicator is greater than the established blocking threshold, the method continues with step S18. If the first performance indicator exceeds the blocking threshold, the wireless communications system 11 rejects new call arrivals of one or more subscriber stations to prevent coverage and/or performance degradation.

Gandhi, col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 10. Apparently the Office Action is asserting that the entire wireless communication system 11 is a “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39. However, the only portion of the entire wireless communication system 11 that the Office Action has asserted as disclosing “a control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1, 21, and 39, is the blocking manager 20. Applicants respectfully submit that Gandhi only discloses one blocking manager 20 not “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39.

The third cited portion of Gandhi cited by the Office Action states, “[t]he blocking thresholds represent overload control thresholds for preventing overloading of the wireless communications system with active subscriber stations.” Gandhi, col. 9, lines 30-33. Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in this portion discloses even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39, let alone “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39.

Consequently, because Gandhi merely discloses one blocking manager 20 in the entire wireless communication system 11, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39.

In addition, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest that the control mechanisms used to reduce the load on the base station are “based on the type and degree of the load on the base station,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39. Rather, Gandhi merely discloses a single blocking manager 20.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 21 and 39 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 10 and 14 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 33 depends directly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 10, 14 and 33 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1, 21 and 39.

B. Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 24 and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 5, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0125068 to Lee et al. (hereinafter, “Lee”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Lee likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Lee that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claims 4 and 5 depend indirectly from claim 1 and claims 24 and 25 depend indirectly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4, 5, 24 and 25 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1 and 21.

C. Rejection of Claims 7-9 and 26-28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 7-9 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0003921 to Laakso (hereinafter, “Laakso”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Laakso likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Laakso that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claims 7-9 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claims 26-28 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 7-9 and 26-28 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1 and 21.

D. Rejection of Claims 12 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 12 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,707,792 to Volftsun et al. (hereinafter “Volftsun”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Volftsun likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Volftsun that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 12 depends directly from claim 1 and claim 30 depends directly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 12 and 30 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1 and 21.

E. Rejection of Claims 13 and 31 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 13 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,546 to Djuric (hereinafter, “Djuric”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Djuric likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Djuric that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 13 depends directly from claim 1 and claim 31 depends directly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 13 and 31 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1 and 21.

F. Rejection of Claims 15 and 35 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 15 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani, Laakso and Djuric. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As discussed above, none of Gandhi, Laakso, or Djuric discloses, teaches or suggests “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 15 depends directly from claim 1 and claim 35 depends directly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 15 and 35 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1 and 21.

G. Rejection of Claims 16 and 36 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 16 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in views of Padovani, Laakso and Djuric. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

As discussed above, none of Gandhi, Laakso and Djuric discloses, teaches or suggests “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 16 depends indirectly from claim 1 and claim 36 depends indirectly from claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 16 and 36 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claims 1 and 21.

H. Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0155852 to Bender et al. (hereinafter, “Bender”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in

this claim. As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 1.

In addition, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Bender reference as disclosing “means for implementing a control mechanism compris[ing]: means for determining idle users; and means for bumping service to idle users.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Bender as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 18 depends indirectly from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 18 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claim 1.

I. Rejection of Claims 6 and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 6 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Padovani and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,216 to Gehi et al. (hereinafter, “Gehi”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 6 and 23. Applicants respectfully submit that Gehi likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest these claim limitations.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Gehi that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in

claims 1 and 21. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In addition, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 23 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

J. Rejection of Claim 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in views of Bender and U.S. Patent No. 6,458,850 to Kim et al. (hereinafter, “Kim”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 1. Claim 19 likewise recites “a plurality of control mechanisms.” Applicants respectfully submit that Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 19. Applicants further submit that Kim likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Kim that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Bender reference as disclosing “means for implementing a control mechanism compris[ing]: means for determining idle users; and means for bumping service to idle users.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of

Bender as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 19.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

K. Rejection of Claim 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in views of Bender and Kim and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,757 to Katoh et al. (hereinafter, “Katoh”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi and Kim do not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that Katoh likewise does not disclose, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Kim that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claim 19. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 19.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Katoh that discloses, teaches or suggests this claim limitation. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 19.

Furthermore, the Office Action cited the Bender reference as disclosing “means for implementing a control mechanism compris[ing]: means for determining idle users; and means for bumping service to idle users.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Bender as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 19.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 20 depends directly from claim 19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 20 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claim 19.

L. Rejection of Claims 11 and 29 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 11 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Volftsun. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi and Volftsun do not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Claims 11 and 29 likewise recite “a plurality of control mechanisms.” Applicants respectfully submit that Gandhi and Volftsun do not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 11 and 29

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 29 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

M. Rejection of Claims 32 and 34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,687,054 to Andersson (hereinafter, “Andersson”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 6, 11, 19, 21, 23, 29 and 39. Claims 32 and 34 likewise

recite “a plurality of control mechanisms.” Applicants respectfully submit that Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 32 and 34.

Applicants submit that the Office Action has not cited, nor can Applicants find, any portion of Andersson that discloses, teaches or suggests even one “control mechanism,” as recited in claims 32 and 34. Therefore, none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 32 and 34.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32 and 34 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

N. Rejection of Claim 37 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Andersson and further in view of Laakso. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi and Laakso do not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1 and 21. Furthermore, as discussed above, the Office Action’s proposed combination of Gandhi and Andersson does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 32 and 34. Claim 37 likewise recites “a plurality of control mechanisms.” Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action’s proposed combination of Gandhi, Andersson, and Laakso does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 37.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 37 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 37 be withdrawn.

O. Rejection of Claim 38 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Gandhi in view of Andersson and Laakso and further in view of Padovani. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The standard for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is provided above. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim at issue is patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in this claim.

As discussed above, Gandhi does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claims 1, 21 and 39. Claim 37 likewise recites “a plurality of control mechanisms.” Furthermore, as discussed above, the Office Action’s proposed combination of Gandhi, Laakso and Andersson does not disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 37.

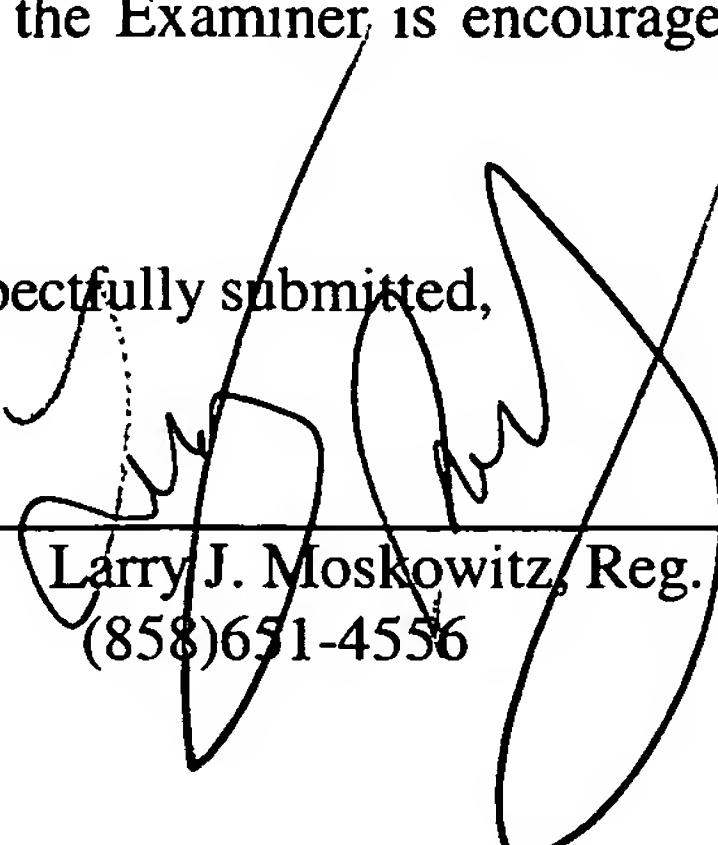
In addition, the Office Action cited the Padovani reference as disclosing “means for detecting an overload as a result of one of the parameters crossing a threshold for an entire period of time.” However, the Office Action has not cited any portion of Padovani as disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “a plurality of control mechanisms,” as recited in claim 37.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 37 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Additionally, claim 38 depends directly from claim 37. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 38 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with claim 37.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Dated: September 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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